



BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

How to respond when God calls you to take the next big step

Joshua 1:1-9

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6 **Be strong and of a good courage**: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. 7 **Only be thou strong and very courageous**, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. 9 Have not I commanded thee? **Be strong and of a good courage**; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

CONTEXT

- This book is a historical account of Joshua leading the nation of Israel to conquer and inherit the Land that God had promised to them.
- God is exhorting Joshua to be strong and courageous in the face of this critical, daunting task.



KEY CONSIDERATION

Every “next big step” in life is a challenge to be strong and courageous by trusting God in obedience to his word.

GOD'S PREPARATORY PROCESS

1 Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, 2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

Examples in the life of Joshua:

- Exodus 17:9, 11 – Moses deployed and supported Joshua in the battle
- Exodus 24:13; 33:11 – Moses facilitated Joshua's nearness to the Lord
- Exodus 32:17-18 – Moses taught Joshua how to be discerning
- Numbers 11:28-29 – Moses taught Joshua how to check his own heart
- Numbers 14 – Moses delegated leadership to Joshua to test his faith
- Deuteronomy 31 – Moses encouraged Joshua
- Deuteronomy 34:9 – Moses vouched for Joshua's calling

God prepares us for his will and plan for our lives in this dispensation through the local church.

- God gives us biblically qualified leaders to facilitate our spiritual growth.
Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
- We are accountable to humbly submit to their leadership and vision.
1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

This church's preparatory process looks like:

- Taking Cost of Discipleship
- Being discipled by a mature mentor in the faith
- Joining a Bible Study
- Serving in ministry
- Taking Foundations to learn how to make disciples
- Taking LFBI to learn the word of God for yourself



KEY POINT #1

Every step of our walk with Christ challenges us to trust God's word with humble faith.

GOD'S PRECISE PROMISES

3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

- **God fulfilled this promise to Joshua and the nation of Israel:**

Joshua 21:43-45 And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. 44 And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. 45 There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.

- **This was Joshua's testimony at the end of his life:**

Joshua 23:14 And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.

- **God promises to answer when we ask according to his will.**

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

- **We know how to ask according to his will by knowing his word.**

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.



KEY POINT #2

We can confidently take the next step when we are humbly dependent on the promises of God.

GOD'S POWERFUL PRESENCE

5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

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9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

- **We have the promise of God's presence in the Great Commission.**

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

- **Example: Paul stayed in Corinth because he knew God was with him.**

Acts 18:9-11 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: 10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. 11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.



KEY POINT #3

The next step should not be feared when we know God has gone before us, is going with us, and will not forsake us.

GOD'S PROSPEROUS PRECEPTS

6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. 7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

- **God's word is always effective.**

Isaiah 55:8-11 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

- **We are only effective when we abide in it.**

Psalm 1:1-3 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.



KEY POINT #4

The only true measure of a successful walk with Christ is obedient faith, every step of the way.

